1/29/70

Dear Russ,

Recently I read J. Harry Jones' book on the Minutemen, the revised, paperback edition, which is more current than the original hardback. And I'm familiar with Eric Norden's work and what he was told by Funkhauser. Consider that these men has access to the top men in the organization and that both present theirs as definitive work, especially Jones who spent much time on a friendly basis with deHugh and others, there is a large gap in the writing of both.

That is, how do the Minutemen protect themselves against infiltration. Of all the groups of this kind, I'd expect them to have the most sophisticated means of self-protection. There is no reference in the work of either, although Jones makes clear deH's continuing apprehension that the FBI would penetrate his organization. The organizational structure presupposed this.

The two more obvious ways are by subverting an existing member and by infiltrating an agent into the organization. The thing that occured to me is this: suppose the FBI did subvert a man in one unit and wanted to check on the accuracy of what he reported, or wanted to check on him. Or suppose there was another unit they wanted to penetrate somewhere else. For either purpose they would have to plant a new man. How did or do the Minuteman protect themselves against this?

Do they require new members to take pentathol? Do they use lie-detector tests? Have they others means or devises? Sophisticated as some of their other aspects are, here is where I'd expect them to be pretty hep.

Perhaps you can learn this from your friend. If and when you speak to him again, or it he has mentioned it in the past, I've heard reports of some right-wing group taking over a small Caribbean island. Don't ask questions about this, but in the course of talking to him, very guardedly, or eh'll say nothing, about self-protection, you might raise the question, suppose any area of the country gets to hot for some members. Is there any place they can get to bet away from the FBI, like some other country? If you get into any kind of real discussion of this sort, you might suggest they ought to be able to get a refuge from one of the countries not too friendly to the US but still close, like Haiti, the Dominican Republic, Guatemala, etc.

I've been busy preparing an answer to the first really clever defense the government has taken the time for in any of my suits. It is intricate, the result of much work; persuasive as dishonest and selective quotation can be (they've even misquoted their own regulations which, fortunately, I have); and requires a sufficiently detailed and lengthy answer to make the answer a possible annoyance to the judge. This tells me that they are concerned. They've out a lot of time and brainpower into this. I got it on the 6th of the 10 days allowed for response. When I phoned the federal attroney to arrange an extension of time (for my typing time was and still is limited by the bursitis), he told me I had ti automatically, that the judge was a month behind on setting his calendar. Fortunately, I called the judge's secretary and learned that what would have been automatic is the granting of his motion in 10 days if I hadn't asked for more time! Nice people. Howwwer, this considerable amount of work will not be wasted if I loose, which I can through my own error, not knowing the law, that is the forms and practises (I know the meaning of the relevant law and regulations) or if the judge is turned on on Warren or is pro-government (not uncommon in Washington). It will make a fine case study in my writing of the dishonesty of the Justice Department and will limn the whole thing nicely. ...Book due to be published 3/10. Nothing else new. Best to both,